

**January 14, 2010**

Once again, the Detroit Community is placed in a position to defend our right to maintain home rule as other school systems in the state automatically practice and take for granted. Why are the Detroit Public Schools always singled out and discriminated against? We believe it is because of the money soon to be received from Proposal S and the money that is earmarked for contracts.

I am grateful for this opportunity to speak before you. It has been very difficult for our story to be told because of the blackout by the news media, and the usual attempt to bar the supporters of the students in the Detroit Public Schools from being heard. Today is the right time in history to speak to your hearts and to pray that you will listen to us and not the propaganda and the planned script that has been prevalent since the arrival of Robert Bobb. They are building up an image that is illusion and not fact. Case in point – Mr. Bobb was appointed as the Emergency Financial Manager of DPS to assist the system in balancing the budget and to set up a system that would prevent fraud and correct the financial problems of the past. These financial problems caused by a deficit of over \$200 million dollars inherited after the State takeover in 1999. To our dismay, Mr. Bobb announced that he could not solve the financial problems. So our question is, “Why is he here?” Why are we here today? Why do we have to continue fighting over and over again for issues which should be our children's right to a quality education? No other school system in the State of Michigan has been attacked as much and as often as we have. Each time we unite and attempt to reform the education in Detroit, we

experience this interference which has only served to prolong our children's progress, such as in 1997 when Detroit's students test scores soared. After the successful results of the academic plan that was implemented, the state decided to take over the system and to control our 1994 bond money. Before Mr. Bobb came, the stakeholders approved an educational plan that was never implemented. Mr. Bobb strayed from his legal powers and took over the entire system against the mandates of the law that gives the Board complete control of academics. The citizens in Detroit are asking, **"DO YOU KNOW WHAT MR. BOBB IS DOING?"** What is his real purpose of being here? To whom does Mr. Bobb answer? Why does he not attend any Board meetings and share information with the citizens? Has anyone been indicted after the highly publicized hearings concerning past criminal acts of Board members, employers, employees and contractors? Are our children better off with the appointment of Mr. Bobb as EFM? Will they be better off when he leaves, or will we experience the same dilemma as we have in the past when these so called leaders of DPS take high salaries, rape our system and move on without any punishment for the irreparable harm they caused to our children?

I have attached some of the research that may answer some of the previous questions. Since we know that the law gives control of academics to the board for the logical reason that will assure continuity, stability and progress. These EFM's are not intended to be a permanent status. It is too dangerous to allow someone to come into this system without the experience and credentials in academics to run a large and complicated system such as Detroit.

We ask you to please allow us to follow the law, which gives the Board we elected the ability to implement the Education Reform Plan, which all of us worked on and approved. We demand to be treated with respect and dignity in the same manner that you treat other Michigan school districts.

We are capable, we have the resolve, we have the courage, and we have the love and the ability to reform our own system as we have done before without interference from those who don't share our agenda that will bring about a quality education for all of our children.

Sincerely,

Helen P. Moore, Chairperson  
Keep the Vote/No Takeover